

WIRING CONNECTION DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to a wiring connection device, and in particular to a wiring connection device with a simplified construction to enable cost reduction, which can facilitate connection operations and improve ease of operations, and which can improve water resistance within terminal cases and improve reliability.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

[0002] Among vehicles there are so-called hybrid vehicles, which are provided with a vehicle motor-assist device, provided with an electric motor driven by electrical energy and having an electricity generating function, and which is directly coupled to the engine driven by fuel combustion as the motive power source, to assist the driving force of the engine with the driving force of the motor.

[0003] The electric motor comprised by the above vehicle motor-assist device is provided with a motor stator mounted in a motor case, with a motor rotor mounted on a rotor mounting member, with a motor-side coil wire from the motor stator coil unit of the motor stator drawn into the motor case, and this motor-side coil wire connected to a power supply cable outside the motor case.

[0004] The motor-side coil wire of the electric motor and the outside power supply cable are connected by means of a wiring connection device. For example, in the device described in Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 8-214492, a junction terminal block is installed within an inner-wall

described in Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 10-112958, a lead wire is connected, soldered and fixed to a terminal rod on one end of a shielded power cable, and the other end of the shielded power cable is drawn outside from a through hole in the front side of an end bracket.

[0007] However, the devices described in the above Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 8-214492 and Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 8-37752 require space for installation of a terminal block, and so have the problem of increased size.

[0008] The device of the above Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 7-222393 has the problem of requiring working space in order to install bolts on both ends of the stud penetrating inside and outside of the shield case. The device of Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 5-72058 has the problems of an increased number of parts and increased cost due to the provision of a terminal unit of complex construction penetrating a flange, and also has the problem of requiring working space for soldering after mounting the terminal on the flange.

[0009] The device of the above Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 10-340716 has the problem of requiring working space in order to mount the lead wire crimping terminal onto the cover terminal using a bolt, and the installation procedure is troublesome; further, working space is required to insert the cover terminal into the cover through hole and fix it in place, and then to spot-weld the terminal portion.

[0010] The device of the above Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 6-98494 has the problem that the electric wire cable is positioned in the working range of the bolt to

fix in place the bushing to the through-hole penetrating the case wall of the motor case, resulting in difficulty in tightening the bolt. The device of the above Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 11-98755 has the problem that the terminal of a lead extending in a free state from the motor core must be grasped from a small window-hole formed in the end wall, matched with the terminal of the power cable fixed to the inner wall of the driving case, and connected by means of a connecting bolt, so that the connection process is difficult. The device of the Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 10-112958 has the problem that the terminal of a lead wire extending in a free state from the stator must be grasped from a small hole formed in the front-side end bracket, matched with the terminal rod of the shielded power cable passing through and fixed in the cable through-hole of the front-side end bracket, and fixed in place using a bolt, so that the connection process is difficult.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] In order to eliminate the above difficulties, this invention is characterized in that a motor case of substantially cylindrical shape is mounted on the cylinder block of an engine, and on this motor case is mounted the motor stator of an electric motor having an electricity generation function; a rotor mounting member is mounted on the crankshaft of the above engine, and on this rotor mounting member is mounted the motor rotor of the above electric motor; on the outer periphery of the case periphery wall of the above motor case is formed a terminal box, having substantially the shape of a square cylinder and with vertical walls standing integrally, and having an aperture portion directed in the outward radial

direction; a motor-side through hole, directed in the outward radial direction and which penetrates into the above motor case, is formed in the case periphery wall enclosed by the above vertical walls, a motor-side connection terminal is mounted on the motor-side coil wire drawn from the above motor stator, this motor-side connection terminal is embedded and held by molding¹ within the above motor-side through hole, and by means of this molding the above motor-side through hole is sealed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0012] Fig. 1 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line I-I of Fig. 7, showing an embodiment of a wiring connection device;
- [0013] Fig. 2 is a plane view of a terminal box taken at arrow II in Fig. 1;
- [0014] Fig. 3 is a front view of a terminal box taken at arrow III in Fig. 2;
- [0015] Fig. 4A is a front view of the motor-side connection terminal mounted on the motor-side coil wire;
- [0016] Fig. 4B is a cross-sectional view of the motor-side connection terminal;
- [0017] Fig. 4C is a bottom view of the motor-side connection terminal;
- [0018] Fig. 5A is a plane view of the motor-side connection terminal;
- [0019] Fig. 5B is a half-cross-sectional view of the motor-side connection terminal;

¹ This translates *morudo*; however, "sealer" or "sealant" might

motor-assist device, and 6 is the transmission. This engine 2 is driven by fuel combustion, and is linked to the transmission 6 via the vehicle motor-assist device 4.

[0036] The engine 2 has a cylinder block 8, cylinder head 10, head cover 12, lower case 14, and oil pan 16; in the lower part of the cylinder block 8, the crankshaft 18 is axially supported by the lower case 14.

[0037] The above vehicle motor-assist device 4 is provided on the output side of the crankshaft 18 of the engine 2. In the vehicle motor-assist device 4, a substantially cylindrical motor case 20 is mounted on the cylinder block 8 on the output-side end of the crankshaft 18, and a rotor mounting member 22 is mounted on the output-side end of the crankshaft 18.

[0038] As shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, the above motor case 20 is mounted on the cylinder block 8 together with a transmission case 96, described below, by means of a mounting bolts 24. In the motor case 20, a motor stator mounting portion 28 is provided on the side of the transmission 6 within the cylindrical-shaped case periphery wall 26, and a ring-shape sensor stator mounting portion 30 is provided on the side of the engine 2 within the case periphery wall 26.

[0039] The above rotor mounting member 22 is mounted and fastened to the crankshaft mounting portion 32 on the output side of the crankshaft 18, together with the flange member 34 and drive plate 36, by means of a mounting bolt 38. The drive plate 36 is provided with a starter-driven gear 40 on its outer periphery edge. The starter driven gear 40 meshes with the starter drive gear of the starter motor, not shown.

[0047] In the vehicle motor-assist device 4, the transmission 6 is provided coupled on the side of the flywheel 50. In the transmission 6, the transmission case is, together with the motor case 20, fixed and mounted on the cylinder block 8 of the engine 2 by a mounting bolt 24.

[0048] As shown in Fig. 9, in the above transmission 6, the shaft strut 52 of the rotor mounting member 22 and the transmission case 96 support the input shaft 98, and an output shaft 100 is provided in the transmission case 96, parallel with this input shaft 98. A reverse idler shaft 102 is supported and provided in the transmission case, parallel to the input shaft 98 and output shaft 100. The transmission 6 is provided with a transmission gear train 104 for forward and backward states, between the input shaft 98, output shaft 100, and reverse idler shaft 102.

[0049] In the transmission 6, a clutch 106 is provided between a side end of the vehicle motor-assist device 4 at the input shaft 98 and the flywheel 50 of the rotor mounting member 22. In the clutch 106 is, as shown in Fig. 8, a flywheel plate 108 and clutch cover 110 are positioned at the flywheel 50 by a knock pin 112, and mounted and fastened by the mounting bolt 114.

[0050] In the clutch 106, a clutch disc 116 provided at the input shaft 98 so as to be movable in the axial direction but non-rotatable is pressed against and released from the flywheel plate 108 by a pressure plate 118, to transmit or cease transmission of the driving force of the engine 2 and electric motor 54 to the input shaft 98 of the transmission 6.

[0051] The transmission 6 converts the rotation speed and torque of the driving force input via the clutch 106 by means of a transmission gear train 104, transmits the driving force by means of a stopping/slowing gear train 120 to the differential 122 supported by a transmission case 96, and transmits the driving force to the right and left driving wheels, not shown.

[0052] As shown in Fig. 6, in the vehicle motor-assist device 4, a sensor cable 124 is drawn out from a temperature sensor, not shown, installed in the motor stator coil portion 60b of the motor stator 60. In the motor case 20 a drawing-out hole 126 is formed which penetrates the case periphery wall 26, and a mounting screw portion 130 of one end of a cable drawing-out fixture 128 is screwed into the mounting hole 126a of the drawing-out hole 126. A lid screw portion 132 is provided on the other end of the cable drawing-out fixture 128, and a retaining hole 134 which penetrates from one end to the other end is provided; a bushing mounting hole 134a is provided at the other end of the retaining hole 134, which is opened in a taper shape.

[0053] The sensor cable 124 passes from the drawing-out hole 126 in the case periphery wall 26 to the retaining hole 134 in the cable drawing-out fixture 128, is retained in watertight fashion to the bushing mounting hole 134a by the mounting bushing 136, is guided through the through-hole 140 of the lid 138 screwed to the lid screw portion 132 and outside the motor case 20, and connected to control means, not shown.

[0054] As shown in Fig. 1 through Fig. 3 and Fig. 6, in the vehicle motor-assist device 4, as the wiring connection device 142, on the outer periphery 70 of the

[0058] In the above motor-side connection portion 158 is formed a motor-side connection surface 164 orthogonal with the axial direction at the tip; a connection screw hole 168, into which a connection bolt 166 is screwed, is formed from the motor-side connection surface 164 directed in the axial direction, and on the outer periphery a whirl-stop portion 170 is formed, buried in molding 174, described below. In this embodiment, the whirl-stop portion 170 is formed with a diagonal-line knurled surface.

[0059] The motor-side connection terminals 154 are plated in order to improve rust resistance and contact electrical resistance. In the motor-side connection terminals 154, the motor-side coil wire 152 is inserted into the coil wire insertion hole 160 of the coil wire retaining portion 156 after plating, the coil wire retaining portion 156 is crimped with an appropriate tool from the other side in the radial direction opposing the plating liquid hole 162, and the motor-side coil wire 152 is crimped and mounted on the coil wire retaining portion 156.

[0060] As shown in Fig. 6, in the motor-side connection terminals 154, the coil wire retaining portion 156 is enveloped by, for example, a silicone varnished glass woven tube or other insulating tube 172, to improve electrical insulation. This insulating tube 172 also covers the motor-side coil wire 152.

[0061] The plurality of motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W, in which a plurality of motor-side coil wires 152U, 152V, 152W are crimped and mounted in coil wire retaining portions 156, are embedded and retained within the motor-side through hole 150

directed in the axial direction. The above cable-side connecting portion 188 extends from one side in the radial direction of the cable retaining portion 186 into a plate shape in the axial direction, and a cable-side connecting surface 192 in contact with the motor-side connecting surface 164 of the above motor-side connection terminals 154 is formed on one face; a connection through hole 194, into which is inserted the above connection bolt 166, is formed in a direction intersecting the axis.

[0066] On the plurality of power supply cables 178U, 178V, 178W are mounted the above cable-side connection terminals 180U, 180V, 180W, and are mounted the connectors 196U, 196V, 196W, fixed to the vertical walls 144 of the terminal box 148.

[0067] Each connector 196U, 196V, 196W has a connector body 198U, 198V, 198W which is electrically connected to the shield 184U, 184V, 184W of the power supply cable 178U, 178V, 178W; a connector-side mating portion 200U, 200V, 200W; a connector-side fastening portion 202U, 202V, 202W; and a through hole for fastening 204U, 204V, 204W.

[0068] The vertical walls of the above substantially square-cylindrical shaped terminal box 148 comprise a pair of long vertical walls 144a, in parallel with the array direction of the motor-side connection terminals 154, and a pair of short vertical walls 144b, perpendicular to the array direction, as shown in Fig. 2. The above plurality of motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W are, as shown in Fig. 1, adjacent to one of the long vertical walls 144a of the terminal box 148, and are directed in the outward radial direction of the motor case 20 in the motor-side through hole 150, and

also arrayed in the circumferential direction, and are embedded and retained by molding 174.

[0069] As shown in Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, a plurality of connector mating holes 206U, 206V, 206W, and a plurality of connector fastening screw holes 208U, 208V, 208W which form pairs with the plurality of connector mating holes 206U, 206V, 206W, are formed in the long vertical wall 144a on the side removed from the motor-side connection terminals 154 of the pair of long vertical walls 144a in parallel with the array direction of the motor-side connection terminals 154, the holes being formed in a direction substantially perpendicular to each of the axes of the respective motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W, and arrayed in the circumferential direction.

[0070] The connector-side mating portions 200U, 200V, 200W are mated with the connector mating holes 206U, 206V, 206W. The fastening bolts 210U, 210V, 210W, which are passed through the fastening through holes 204U, 204V, 204W of the connector-side fastening portions 202U, 202V, 202W, are screwed into the plurality of connector fastening screw holes 208U, 208V, 208W.

[0071] The angles θ_u , θ_v , θ_w made by the planes Pu, Pv, Pw containing each of the axes of the connector mating screws 206U, 206V, 206W and the paired connector fastening screw holes 208U, 208V, 208W formed in the opposite-side long vertical wall 144a with each of the motor-side connecting surfaces 164U, 164V, 164W formed at the tips of the motor-side connection portions 158U, 158V, 158W of the above plurality of motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W, are each arranged differently

so as to be concentrated at the center of the long vertical wall 144a, as shown in Fig. 3.

[0072] In this wiring connection device 142, the plurality of motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W is directed in the outward radial direction within the motor-side through hole 150 of the terminal box 148, and arrayed in the circumferential direction, and embedded and retained by means of molding 174; and the plurality of cable-side connection terminals 180U, 180V, 180W is inserted, from the connector mating holes 206U, 206V, 206W of a long vertical wall 144a among the vertical walls 144 of the terminal box 148, directed in directions substantially perpendicular to the axial directions of the respective motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W in the terminal box 148, and arrayed in the circumferential direction.

[0073] Next, in the wiring connection device 142, the connector-side mating portions 200U, 200V, 200W of the connectors 196U, 196V, 196W are mated with the respective plurality of connector mating holes 206U, 206V, 206W, and the fastening bolts 210U, 210V, 210W, which are passed through the fastening through holes 204U, 204V, 204W of the connector-side fastening portions 202U, 202V, 202W, are screwed into the plurality of connector fastening screw holes 208U, 208V, 208W, and the respective connectors 196U, 196V, 196W are fastened in the long vertical wall 144a.

[0074] Then, in the wiring connection device 142, the cable-side connection surfaces 192U, 192V, 192W of the cable-side connection terminals 180U, 180V, 180W are brought into contact with the motor-side connection surfaces 164U, 164V, 164W of the motor-side connection

terminals 154U, 154V, 154W, and the connection bolts 166U, 166V, 166W, which are passed through the connection through holes 194U, 194V, 194W of the cable-side connection portions 188U, 188V, 188W, are screwed into the connection screw holes 168U, 168V, 168W of the motor-side connection portions 158U, 158V, 158W, connecting the cable-side connection terminals 180U, 180V, 180W to the motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W; and a lid member 212, which blocks the aperture portion 146 at the tip of the vertical walls 144 of the terminal box 148, is mounted by means of a mounting bolt 214, via a liquid-form gasket, O-ring, gasket sheet, or other sealing member (not shown).

[0075] Next, the operation is explained.

[0076] In the vehicle motor-assist device 4 linked to the engine 2 a substantially cylindrical motor case 20, mounted on the cylinder block 8 of the engine 2, is provided; in this motor case 20 the motor stator 60 of an electric motor 54 having an electricity generation function, is mounted, a rotor mounting member 22 is mounted on the crankshaft 18 of the engine 2, and on this rotor mounting member 22 the motor rotor 58 of the electric motor 54 is mounted.

[0077] The wiring connection device 142, which connects the motor-side coil wire 152 of the motor rotor 58 with the power supply cable 178, is provided with a terminal box 148, having substantially the shape of a square cylinder with vertical walls 144 standing integrally, and having an aperture portion 146 directed in the outward radial direction. In the case periphery wall 26 surrounded by the vertical walls 144 a motor-side through hole 150 penetrating into the motor case 20 is

formed, and directed in the outward radial direction. A motor-side connection terminal 154 is crimped onto and mounted on a motor-side coil wire 152 drawn from the motor stator 60; this motor-side connection terminal 154 is embedded into and retained in the motor-side through hole 150 by means of molding 174, and in addition the motor-side through hole 150 is sealed by this molding 174.

[0078] In this way, in this wiring connection device 142 a terminal box 148 is formed in the outer periphery face 70 of the case periphery wall 26 of a motor case 20, having substantially the shape of a square cylinder with vertical walls 144 standing integrally. By embedding and retaining the motor-side connection terminal 154 of the motor-side coil wire 152 in the motor-side through hole 150 of the case periphery wall 26 in the terminal box 144 using molding 174, a separate terminal block or terminal case is not necessary as in the prior art; and because proximity to the motor-side connection terminal 174 from the outside of the motor case 20 is made possible by means of the aperture portion 146 of the terminal box 148 directed outward in the radial direction, connection operations within the motor case 22 are not necessary. By means of the molding 174 which embeds and retains the motor-side connection terminal 154, the motor-side through hole 150 is sealed, and so the interior of the terminal box 148 and the interior of the motor case 20 can be isolated to a watertight degree.

[0079] Because this wiring connection device can eliminate the separate terminal block or terminal case of the prior art, the construction can be simplified and costs can be reduced, and connection operations within the motor case 20 can be rendered unnecessary. Hence

can be placed adjacent to the motor-side connection terminals 154, connection bolt 166, cable-side connection terminals 180 and cores 182, and the terminal box 148 can be made smaller.

[0082] As shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 6, in the terminal box 148 are formed rib-shaped insulating portions 216 integrally with the molding 174, between the plurality of motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W on the high-voltage side and the plurality of cable-side connection terminals 180U, 180V, 180W connected to these motor-side connection terminals 154U, 154V, 154W. By this means, the spatial distance and creepage distance between each of the phases U, V, W can be increased, insulation can be made still more reliable, and the vertical walls 144 can be placed still closer to the motor-side connection terminals 154 and cable-side connection terminals 180 and similar, so that the terminal box 148 can be made still smaller. And by forming the insulating portions 216 integrally with the molding 174, there is no need to provide separate portions, and fabrication is facilitated.

[0083] In the wiring connection device 142, the motor-side connection terminals 154 comprise a base-side coil wire retaining portion 156 and a tip-side motor-side connection portion 158; in the coil wire retaining portion 156 a motor wire insertion hole 160 is formed, directed in the axial direction, into which the motor-side coil wire 152 is inserted; in one side in the radial direction, adjacent to the motor-side connection portion 158 a plating liquid hole 162 for pouring plating liquid into the coil wire insertion hole 160 is formed. In the motor-side connection portion 158 a connection screw hole

motor-side coil wires 152U, 152V, 152W, have cylindrical-shape motor-side connection portions 224U, 224V, 224W having inner diameter D1, arranged in a row with intervals between coaxial cores, embedded and retained in the inner periphery of the cylindrical-shape motor-side terminal retainer 228 by means of molding 226 having both insulating and elastic properties. A motor-side joining hole 232 of inner diameter D1 is formed on the inner periphery of the motor-side terminal retainer 228, and a ring-shaped insulating portion 230 is secured between each of the motor-side connection portions 224U, 224V, 224W.

[0096] The cable-side connection terminals 180U, 180V, 180W, electrically connected with a plurality of power supply cables 178U, 178V, 178ⁱⁱ, have cable-side connection portions 234U, 234V, 234W, with a U-shaped cross-section and having an outer diameter D2 slightly larger than the above inner diameter D1, arranged in a row with intervals between coaxial cores, embedded and retained in the outer periphery of a cable-side retainer 238 having inner diameter D1 and substantially the same outer diameter D3 by means of molding 236 with insulating and elastic properties. A ring-shaped insulating portion 240 is secured between each of the cable-side connecting portions 234U, 234V, 234W on the outer periphery of the cable-side retainer 238, and a drawing-out hole 242 which draws out the above power supply cables 178U, 178V, 178W is formed.

ⁱⁱ This should probably be "178W".

